United Nations A/59/236

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 14 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon the instructions of my Government and in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on the matter has been attached (see annex).

I have the further honour to request that the present letter and its annex be urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

04-55590 (E) 181004

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The ongoing conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan has resulted in the occupation of a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory and the expulsion of a large portion of its population and severe damage to the national economy.

The Security Council has adopted four resolutions — 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) — demanding the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the creation of necessary conditions for the return of displaced persons to their homes in security and dignity. Those provisions of the resolutions remain unimplemented.

The process for the peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the norms and principles of international law is carried out under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group, but as yet no result has been achieved.

In the meantime, illegal activities are currently being carried out in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular by transfer of settlers in order to create artificially a new demographic situation in those territories.

In view of the far-reaching implications of such activities, which constitute dangerous developments in the conflict and have a devastating impact on the negotiations, it is incumbent upon the General Assembly to deal with the question in all its aspects with a view to taking appropriate action to cease the occupation and reverse the illegal activities.